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THE KABUL TIMES

Founded in 1962 Saratan 30-1405 Tuesday 21 July 2026 INo: 100 -Vol: LXIV

DAILY

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Islamic Emirate Expresses Condolences as Flash Floods Cause Heavy Human, Financial Losses in Nuristan

KABUL: The Islamic Emirate has expressed condolences to the victims of devastating flash floods that swept through Paron, the capital of Nuristan province, on Monday afternoon, causing human casualties and significant financial losses.Zabihullah Mujahid, spokesman for the Islamic Emirate, said in a statement that the leadership had learned "with deep regret" that the floods in Nuristan had resulted in human and financial losses.

Mujahid extended condolences to the families of those who lost their lives, praying that the victims be granted the highest place in Paradise, and wished a swift recovery to those injured in the disaster.He added that the relevant authorities were actively engaged in rescue efforts to protect the lives and property of affected residents and assured that the necessary assistance would be provided.Meanwhile, the spokesperson for the Nuristan provincial governor said that the flash floods were triggered by heavy rainfall and caused extensive damage in different parts of the provincial capital.He said the exact number of casualties and the full extent of the financial losses have not yet been determined, as assessment teams continue to evaluate the damage. Further details are expected to be released once the assessments are completed.

The flooding comes as Afghanistan's Meteorological Department has warned of the possibility of heavy rainfall, thunderstorms, strong winds and flash floods in several provinces across the country.According to the department, the provinces of Badakhshan, Kunar, Nuristan, Laghman, Nangarhar, Logar, Paktia, Khost, Paktika and Ghazni are at risk of severe weather and possible flash floods.The Meteorological Department has urged residents in vulnerable areas to take precautionary measures and avoid riverbanks, waterways and flood-prone locations.

The Kabul Times

Destructive Flash Floods Leave Heavy Human, Financial Losses in Nuristan

PARON: Destructive flash floods triggered by heavy rainfall swept through Paron, the capital of Nuristan province, on Monday afternoon, leaving heavy human and financial losses, Furaidoon Samim, the spokesperson for the provincial governor, said.

The spokesperson said the floods occurred following heavy rainfall in the city and were powerful enough to destroy a number of shops, while some others were swept away by the floodwaters.The disaster also caused significant damage to the property and belongings of local residents, he said, adding that the exact number of casualties and the full extent of the financial losses caused by the floods remain unclear.

Local authorities said assessment efforts are underway to determine the scale of the damage and establish whether there have been any casualties, and further details will be made public once the assessment is completed, officials said.The flash floods came as Afghanistan's Meteorological Department issued a warning about the possibility of heavy rainfall, thunderstorms, strong winds and flash floods in several provinces across the country.

Based on the warning, the provinces of Badakhshan, Kunar, Nuristan, Laghman, Nangarhar, Logar, Paktia, Khost, Paktika and Ghazni have been identified as areas at risk, according to the weather warning.

The Meteorological Department has urged residents in the affected provinces to take precautionary measures and avoid approaching waterways, rivers and flood-prone areas.The latest flooding in Nuristan has once again highlighted the vulnerability of mountainous areas of Afghanistan to sudden and destructive floods, particularly during periods of heavy rainfall.Afghanistan has experienced repeated flash floods and extreme rainfall in recent years, causing casualties and extensive damage to homes, shops, agricultural land and public infrastructure in various parts of the country.

The Kabul Times

Work Begins on Major Bridge Project Over Helmand River in Kajaki

KABUL: Construction work worth 180 million Afghanis has been started on a bridge over the Helmand River in the Azan Nawa area of Kajaki district of Helmand province, the Ministry of Public Works said in a statement the other day.

The 280 meters long and 10 meters wide bridge will be constructed within two years, the statement said.

Once completed, the bridge will connect the two sides of the Helmand River, providing a more convenient route for local residents and improving connectivity between communities in the area.

The statement said the bridge will also make it easier for farmers to transport their agricultural products and is expected to contribute to strengthening economic activities in the region.

The project is considered an important infrastructure initiative for the area, as improved connectivity can facilitate the movement of people and goods and provide better access to markets and other economic opportunities.

The Kabul Times

Afghan, Brunei Officials Discuss Expanding Cultural, Humanitarian Cooperation

KUALA LUMPUR: Naqibullah Ahmadi, the Ambassador of the Islamic Emirate to Malaysia, in a meeting with Dr. Noor Emtehan, Deputy Minister of Planning and Development of Brunei Darussalam and head of the Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation.The two sides discussed relations between Afghanistan and Brunei Darussalam, the embassy said in a statement on Monday.

According to the statement, the discussions focused on the importance of strengthening and expanding cooperation and mutual engagement between the two countries.

The two sides also held comprehensive discussions on cooperation in cultural and humanitarian areas, according to the embassy.

The meeting comes as Afghanistan continues to engage with regional and international countries and institutions on areas of mutual interest, including cultural and humanitarian cooperation.

The Kabul Times

DAB, ECGF Discuss Expanding Financing Opportunities for Small Businesses

KABUL: Sediqullah Khalid, the First Deputy Governor of Da Afghanistan Bank, in a meeting with Derek Tieson, Deputy of the Afghanistan Financing Guarantee Foundation (ECGF), discussed ways to facilitate financing guarantees and expand financial support for small businesses in the country.

The meeting was held with the aim of creating greater opportunities in the area of small-scale financing guarantees, grants, and technical cooperation with financing institutions, the DAB said in a statement the other day.

Speaking at the meeting, Khalid called on the Afghanistan Financing Guarantee Foundation to ensure that its services are provided equally to all regions of the country and relevant institutions without any discrimination.

He emphasized the importance of ensuring wider access to financing guarantee services, particularly for institutions and businesses seeking financial support to expand their activities.

Meanwhile, the deputy of the Afghanistan Financing Guarantee Foundation called on the leadership of Da Afghanistan Bank to help create the necessary conditions for expanding financing opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises.

The ECGF official also stressed the importance of strengthening technical cooperation with relevant financial and banking institutions, as part of efforts to improve access to financing and support the development of small and medium-sized businesses in Afghanistan.

The Kabul Times

Suhail Shaheen Hopes New UN Envoy Will Present Afghanistan's Realities to World

DOHA: Mohammad Suhail Shaheen, the Islamic Emirate's ambassador to Qatar, has expressed hope that Rabab Fatima, a prominent former Bangladeshi diplomat and the United Nations' newly appointed Special Representative for Afghanistan, will work toward a realistic and fair resolution of issues concerning the country.

In an audiotape, Shaheen said he hoped that Fatima's familiarity with the culture and traditions of the region would help her better understand Afghanistan and its circumstances during her tenure.He said the new UN representative is expected to take into account the religious and cultural values of the Afghan people and work toward strengthening mutual understanding and positive engagement between Afghanistan and the international community.Shaheen also stressed the importance of ensuring that Afghanistan's realities and the voice of its people are accurately conveyed to the international community.

The Islamic Emirate's ambassador to Qatar further called for Afghanistan's seat at the United Nations to be handed over to representatives of the Islamic Emirate, arguing that such a move could help create the basis for more effective engagement between Kabul and the international community.The ambassador also expressed hope that during the new UN envoy's tenure, efforts would increase to promote mutual understanding, address issues related to Afghanistan and strengthen relations between Kabul and the international community.The Islamic Emirate has repeatedly called for greater engagement with the international community and recognition of its representatives at international forums.

The Kabul Times

Commission Approves Books Aligned with Islamic, Afghan Values for Publication

KABUL: The meeting of the Book Evaluation Commission of the Ministry of Information and Culture was held on Monday, approving a number of books for publication after reviewing their content and determining that they are in line with Islamic and Afghan values.The decision was made during the commission's regular meeting, which was attended by members of the commission, the Ministry of Information and Culture said in a statement.The meeting reviewed several books and took the necessary decisions regarding their publication, the statement said, adding that the books considered consistent with Islamic principles and Afghan values were granted permission to be published.

The commission also assigned 15 titles and other unpublished works to its members for further review and evaluation, and the members were tasked with examining the works and preparing reports for presentation and discussion at the commission's next meeting.In addition, the commission discussed books related to the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) and made the necessary decisions regarding them, the statement said.

At the end of the meeting, members of the commission met with the author of the fictional book Dreams, where they discussed the publication of the work and exchanged views on the process of printing the book.

The Ministry of Information and Culture holds regular meetings of the Book Evaluation Commission to review books and other written works submitted for publication and make decisions regarding their approval.

The Kabul Times

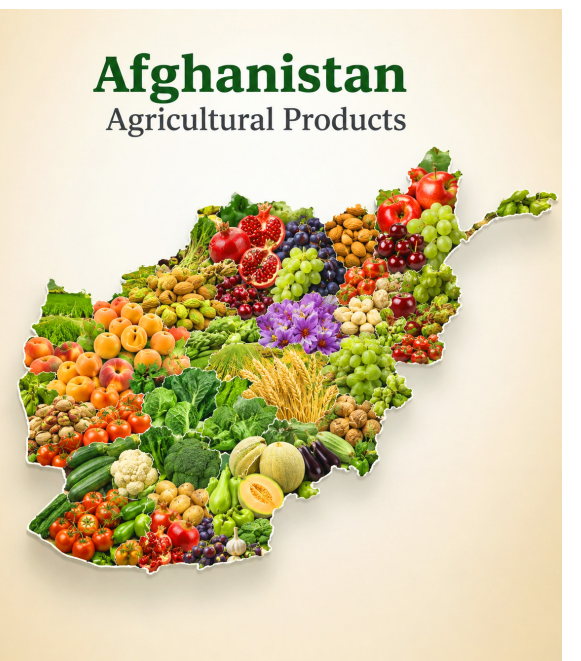
Afghanistan Seeks International Support for Agricultural Products Exhibition

KABUL: The Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock has organized a meeting aimed at coordinating with international organizations and seeking their cooperation for holding an exhibition of Afghanistan's agricultural and livestock products.

The meeting brought together relevant officials to discuss efforts to organize the exhibition and attract the support and cooperation of international institutions, the ministry said in a statement on Monday.

Mawlavi Sadr Azam Osmani, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, emphasized the important role of exhibitions in introducing and promoting domestic products.

He said such exhibitions can help Afghan agricultural producers and livestock owners showcase their products, expand access to markets, and create greater opportunities for the development of domestic production.



Osmani also highlighted the importance of supporting farmers and livestock owners, who play a significant role in Afghanistan's agricultural economy.

The ministry's initiative comes as efforts continue to promote domestic agricultural and livestock products and provide producers with greater opportunities to introduce their products to consumers and potential markets. **The Kabul Times**

International-Daily
WWW.TheKabulTimes.com
Uzair Baryalay, Director of Govt. Dailies
Email: Atvaishan@gmail.com
Editor-in-Chief, Nik Mohammad Nikmal
Email: Nikmal@TheKabulTimes.com
Mob: (+93)700 208 103
Deputy Editor-in-Chief, Fathulbari Akhgar
Mob: (+93)748 076 223
Distribution: 0202 312 509-(+93)766 044 966)
Graphic designers: Baktash, Habibullah Aiman
Translators: Abdul Baqi Haqyar, Noor Ahmad and Hamid Jhwok
Cartoonist: Sayed Hassan Samedi
Address: 8th PD, Olympic Square, East of Chaman-e-Huzori, Kabul, Afghanistan

Food for thought

Today's Generation Guarantees Our Bright Future

Understanding Afghanistan's Political Dynamics Under Islamic Emirate

Resignations within political systems often spark speculation, particularly in contexts where stability and unity are closely scrutinized. The recent departure of a provincial deputy governor has been interpreted by some as a sign of discord within the Islamic Emirate. Yet, a closer look reveals that the matter is less about political opposition and more about administrative challenges, specifically language barriers and communication gaps. This distinction is critical, as it underscores the difference between systemic disagreement and practical difficulties in governance.

The Islamic Emirate has consistently emphasized that its system is built on inclusivity under Islamic Sharia, rejecting notions of ethnic or linguistic discrimination. In this case, the resignation was framed not as a rejection of the Emirate's authority but as a personal decision rooted in the complexities of communication across Afghanistan's diverse linguistic landscape. Such challenges are not unique to Afghanistan. Multilingual societies worldwide often grapple with representation and effective communication in governance. The key takeaway is that administrative hurdles should not be combined with poitical fractures.

At the same time, rumors and speculation surrounding resignations highlight the role of media and opportunistic actors in shaping narratives. In fragile political environments, even routine administrative changes can be weaponized to suggest instability. This dynamic reflects a broader struggle over perception, whether Afghanistan is seen as a system consolidating authority or one beset by internal disputes. The Islamic Emirate's insistence on unity and its rejection of claims of discord is part of its broader effort to project stability both domestically and internationally.

The discussion also touches on the integration of Mujahideen into state institutions. The proposal to employ hundreds of fighters in government offices reflects an ongoing challenge. How to transition wartime structures into peacetime governance. Successful integration would not only provide livelihoods but also reinforce the Emirate's narrative of inclusivity and national service. Conversely, failure to absorb these forces risks leaving segments of society marginalized, potentially vulnerable to manipulation by groups seeking instability. Security concerns in Badakhshan further illustrate the delicate balance between governance and counterinsurgency. Arrests of individuals linked to armed groups demonstrate the Emirate's continued vigilance against threats, while analysts caution against the futility of conflict as a means of achieving lasting stability. This dual perspective highlights the tension between immediate security measures and the long-term need for reconciliation and development.

Ultimately, the resignation in question should be understood not as a rupture but as a reminder of the challenges inherent in governing a diverse nation. Afghanistan's stability depends less on isolated personnel changes and more on the system's ability to integrate its people, counter misinformation, and maintain security. The Islamic Emirate's narrative of unity and non-discrimination is central to this effort, and its success will hinge on translating these principles into effective governance across all provinces.

Technical & Vocational Training Centers Expand Activities Across Afghanistan

Report By: Jawid Noori

Officials of the country's Technical and Vocational Education and Training Department say that currently 393 education centers, including 152 high schools, 210 institutes, and 31 special education and training centers are operating across the country to improve technical and professional skills of those attending this number of training centers.

According to the officials, 77,885 students, of which 31,773 are in high schools and 46,112 are in institutes - are engaged in receiving education and training in these centers,

Sayed Safir Mansouri, the head of public relations at the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Department, told The Kabul Times correspondent that students were receiving over 109 technical trainings, such as administration, commerce, construction, firefighting, aviation, electricity, electrotechnics, oil and gas technicians, modern technology, motorcycle repair, mobile phone repair, tailoring, computer science and many others.

"Teaching methods have been upgraded from traditional methods to modern, skill-oriented and based on the needs of the labor market," Mansouri said, adding that these centers have been able to help reduce some of the educational problems, provide more opportunities for students to learn and acquire skills, and prepare them to enter the labor market, which has led to an increase in the satisfaction of teachers and the public with this department.

In connection with the plans of the country's technical and vocational education and training department, Manouri said: "Providing food and accommodation facilities for the students, establishing special education centers in 5 provinces of the country, establishing and developing educational fields in accordance with the needs of the labor market, compiling educational curricula, printing and distributing books and other educational materials, providing educational raw materials, creating and equipping computer labs, installing and calibrating security cameras in the educational centers, activating the Internet and other necessary matters are among the future plans of this department."Meanwhile, Zabihullah Himat, an expert in educational affairs says technical and educational training centers play an important role in strengthening human capital in the country, and considering to the abilities and interests of the students, the teachers in these centers can acquire practical and specialized skills in different fields as well as general knowledge."

"Given the current technological, industrial and economic changes, the need for a workforce with both scientific knowledge and practical skills is increasing day by day. If the educational programs of these centers are in line with the needs of the labor market, it will have a direct impact on job creation and the country's economy," Himat said, stressing that more attention should be paid to equipment, quality, professional teachers, curriculum modernization and coordination with the private sector so that graduates of these centers can respond well to the needs of the labor market.It is worth mentioning that technical and vocational training centers are expanding across Afghanistan to combat unemployment and build skilled human capital. Managed largely by the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Authority (TVETA), these programs offer vital short-and long-term skills to help youth find jobs in the market.

You Can't Cover the Sun with a Finger

By: Ahmad Shaker Zarbi

Look at Afghanistan's history over the last century, and you see a constant cycle of political shifts and changing governments. We went from traditional kings and constitutional monarchies to a series of short-lived republics and ideological systems.

None of it brought the progress our country needed. Relying on foreign, non-Islamic ideas backfired—it didn't build a stable nation, it just triggered endless crises and invited foreign powers to invade and take over.

Today's government works differently. It is built strictly on religious principles and Islamic Sharia, running the country according to divine law.

The Afghan public gave up a lot to build a firm Islamic foundation, which is why people support this direction now.

Still, the foreign powers that lost here keep trying to cause trouble. They fall back on broad claims about human rights and women's rights to attack the government. But the Islamic Emirate remains set on protecting women's rights inside an Islamic framework that respects our local customs.

Islam gives women complete financial control—they have every right to trade, buy land, run businesses, and manage their own money.

The numbers back this up.

A recent update from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) points out that over 130,000 women are working across Afghanistan's business sector today.

The UNDP found that licensed female business owners jumped almost tenfold compared to where things stood before 2021, topping 10,000.

On top of that, data from the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Investment estimates another 120,000 women run informal businesses, mainly in local crafts and home production.

These figures show real work opportunities opening up for women under Sharia law.

They cut straight through the claims coming from foreign critics who say women can't work here. As the old saying goes: you can't cover the sun with one finger.

20 Years On, Mawlavi Mohammad Younus Khalis Remembered for Religious, Jihadi Role

Report By: Abdulbaqi Haqyar

Twenty years after the death of Mawlawi Mohammad Younus Khalis, a former Afghan religious scholar and jihadi figure, accounts of his life and activities have highlighted his role in Afghanistan's religious and political developments, particularly during the Soviet occupation and the years that followed.

Khalis, who died on July 19, 2006, was born in 1919 in Khogyani district of Nangarhar province. He received religious education in his early years and later pursued higher Islamic studies at Darul Uloom Haqqania in Pakistan.

He was known primarily for his religious activities and his involvement in the Afghan jihad against the Soviet Union. He later founded and led Hezb-e Islami Khalis, one of the mujahideen factions active during the conflict.

Beyond his political and jihadi activities, Khalis was also described by those who knew him as a writer, poet and preacher. His writings and speeches addressed religious issues, Islamic values, freedom, social justice and political developments in Afghanistan.

Supporters of Khalis say his personal life was characterized by simplicity and religious commitment. They also describe him as a person who maintained a clear position on political and religious issues and opposed what he considered to be foreign influence and political compromise.

During the anti-Soviet war, Khalis became involved in the leadership of the mujahideen and played a role in the political activities of the resistance movement.

In 1987, he was reportedly appointed head of the Islamic Union of Afghan Mujahideen and later led a delegation of Afghan mujahideen leaders on a visit to the United States.

During the visit, Khalis reportedly called on then-U.S. President Ronald Reagan to accept Islam, an incident that has since been cited by his supporters as an example of his religious convictions and willingness to express his views openly.

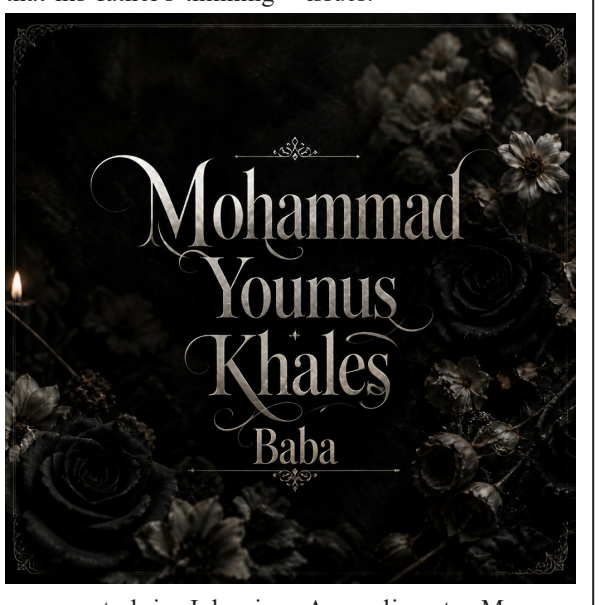
Following the Soviet withdrawal, Khalis remained involved in Afghanistan's political and religious affairs. He maintained influence among some groups in eastern Afghanistan, particularly in Nangarhar, during the years of internal conflict.

After the U.S.-led intervention in Afghanistan in 2001, Khalis reportedly declared jihad against U.S. forces and their allies in 2003. He subsequently lived in hiding with his family during the final years of his life.

Those remembering Khalis on the 20th anniversary of his death have also highlighted his intellectual and literary work. According to accounts of his life, he wrote articles, religious texts and poetry dealing with faith, jihad, social issues and political developments.

Mawlawi Mati-ul-Haq Khalis, head of Afghanistan's National Environmental Protection Agency and a son of Khalis, said his father had a distinct religious and political outlook and encouraged young people to study his ideas.

"Khalis Baba was someone who had a unique way of thinking," he said, adding that his father's thinking was rooted in Islamic teachings and resistance to colonialism.



Meanwhile, Mawlavi Nisar Ahmad Elyas, who has written about Khalis Baba, said his activities extended beyond military engagement.

"Mawlavi Khalis was a religious scholar, writer and literary figure," Elyas said, describing his speeches and writings as emphasizing faith, piety, sincerity, freedom and Islamic brotherhood.

He also pointed to Khalis's simple lifestyle, humility and close relations with ordinary people as characteristics that earned him respect among his followers and some sections of Afghan society.

Professor Mohammad Zaman Mozammil described Khalis as a religious figure who maintained clear and direct positions on political issues.

According to Mozammil, Khalis spoke openly and directly, including in meetings with mujahideen leaders and political and diplomatic figures who supported the Afghan resistance. He said Khalis was known for expressing his views without relying heavily on political bargaining or diplomatic language.

Regarding Baba Khalis'

See P4

How U.S. War Casualties Shape Trump's Defense of Military Strategy

By: Ghulam Reza Omidi

U.S. President Donald Trump's recent remarks comparing American military losses in the ongoing conflict with Iran to the far greater casualties suffered during the Vietnam and Afghanistan wars have once again brought the issue of war costs, military involvement, and public perception into focus.

Speaking in an interview with The New York Post after the deaths of two American soldiers in Jordan during attacks linked to the Iran conflict, Trump argued that U.S. casualties in the current confrontation remain significantly lower than those recorded in previous major wars. He questioned whether Americans remember the scale of losses experienced during the Vietnam War and the long military campaign in Afghanistan, suggesting that the current conflict has so far resulted in comparatively fewer American deaths.

"Have you ever asked how many people were killed in Vietnam? Have you ever asked how many people lost their lives in a single day of the Afghanistan war?" Trump said, highlighting the contrast between past and present military engagements.

According to reports from U.S. media outlets, since the beginning of the latest conflict involving Iran, at least 16 American military personnel have been killed and more than 450 others wounded. While these figures are far below the human cost of previous wars, they represent a growing concern for Washington as tensions in the Middle East continue to escalate.

The Vietnam War remains one of the most costly conflicts in U.S. military history. More than 58,000 American service members were killed during the war, which lasted from the 1950s until 1975. The conflict deeply divided American society, reshaped U.S. foreign policy, and created lasting debates over military intervention abroad.

Similarly, the U.S. war in Afghanistan, which began in 2001 following the September 11 attacks, resulted in the deaths of more than 2,400 American troops over nearly two decades of military operations. Thousands more suffered physical and psychological injuries, while the war also caused significant economic and political costs for the United States and Afghanistan.

Trump's comments reflect a broader political argument often used by U.S. leaders: comparing current military actions with previous conflicts to justify strategic decisions. By pointing to the lower number of casualties in the Iran conflict, Trump appears to be emphasizing that the current approach is more limited and controlled compared with large-scale ground wars of the past.

However, military analysts argue that measuring the success or seriousness of a conflict only through casualty figures can be misleading. Modern conflicts often involve cyber operations, missile strikes, intelligence campaigns, economic pressure, and regional instability that may not immediately appear through battlefield statistics.

A conflict with fewer military deaths can still have significant consequences for global security, energy markets, and diplomatic relations.

Trump also stated that American forces were involved because Washington wanted to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons and to stop what he described as further destruction in the Middle East. His statement reflects a long-standing U.S. concern over Iran's nuclear ambitions and its influence across the region. Supporters of this position argue that military pressure is necessary to prevent a larger security threat. Critics, however, warn that military escalation could increase instability and create new challenges rather than solve existing problems.

The comparison with Vietnam and Afghanistan also raises questions about the lessons learned from past U.S. interventions. Both wars demonstrated that military strength alone does not always guarantee political outcomes. Despite overwhelming military capabilities, the United States faced prolonged conflicts that became increasingly difficult to manage.

The current Iran conflict remains a sensitive issue for the United States and its allies. While the number of American casualties is relatively low compared with previous wars, the possibility of further escalation remains a major concern. Regional actors, international organizations, and global markets continue to closely monitor developments, fearing that a wider confrontation could create unpredictable consequences.

Ultimately, Trump's comparison highlights the changing nature of modern warfare and the political importance of casualty numbers. For governments, fewer losses can be presented as evidence of a successful strategy. For critics, however, the true impact of war must be measured not only by the number of soldiers killed but also by its broader humanitarian, economic, and geopolitical consequences.

As tensions continue, the central question remains whether the current conflict will remain limited or develop into another prolonged confrontation with lasting effects similar to earlier wars. History shows that even conflicts that begin with limited objectives can produce consequences far beyond initial expectations.

THE KABUL TIMES DAILY

Saratan 30-1405 Tuesday 21 July 2026 INo: 100-Vol: LXIV

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SPORTS

Spain Wins World Cup in Extra-Time Final

Spain picked up their second World Cup title on Sunday, putting away Argentina 1–0 in extra time. The expanded 48-team tournament—split across the US, Canada, and Mexico from June 11 to July 19—came down to a single moment late in extra time.After 90 scoreless minutes of tense, tactical football, substitute Ferran Torres broke the stalemate in the 106th minute.

He tucked home a clean setup to give Spain the lead, holding off Argentina's late push to lock up their first World Cup title since 2010.

What really defined Spain's run under Luis de la Fuente, though, was their backline. Across eight matches, they let in just one goal—a single strike from Belgium back in the quarter-finals.

That near-perfect defensive run set a brand-new World Cup record, laying the foundation for their championship win.

The Kabul Times

Kabul Hosts 19th National Bodybuilding & Fitness Championship

Kabul has kicked off the 19th national selection trial for bodybuilding and fitness, bringing together 209 athletes from 21 provinces. Organized by the National Bodybuilding and Fitness Federation alongside the General Directorate of Physical Education and Sports, the two-day event is taking place at the national sports authority's 500-seat gymnasium.

Competitors are going head-to-head across two core divisions: bodybuilding and fitness. The weight categories range from 55 kg to over 95 kg, while height classes span from 165 cm to over 185 cm. By the end of the tournament, officials will select 60 fitness competitors and 50 bodybuilders to form the upcoming national squad, while also crowning the new "Mr. Afghanistan."

The opening ceremony drew a sizable crowd of fans, federation officials, and sports figures, including Hafiz Ahmad Jan Zadran, the technical and professional deputy of the national sports authority.

Beyond filling national team slots, the gathering serves as a major platform for domestic talent, giving lifters from across the country a chance to prove themselves on a national stage. With competition running over two days, the top performers will soon represent Afghanistan in upcoming regional and international meets.

The Kabul Times

Mazar-i-Sharif Hosts Dynamic Parkour Display to Inspire Young Athletes

Mazar-i-Sharif saw 40 young traceurs take over open spaces this week as the Balkh Parkour Federation ran a single-day public demonstration.

The goal was straightforward: get kids moving and show the region what parkour actually looks like up close.

For many teenagers in northern Afghanistan, structured athletic programs are hard to come by.

Parkour requires little equipment beyond open space, making it accessible for young people looking for focus and community.

Drawing 40 participants for a single afternoon suggests a real appetite for alternative sports in the area.

Local coaches view this exhibition as a test run.

They plan to use the momentum to set up routine meets, steering young people away from empty hours and into regular physical training.

The Kabul Times

Mi-17 Helicopter Repaired, Ready for Operation, Ministry

KABUL: The General Command of Air and Air Defense Forces has repaired an Mi-17 helicopter following 13 months of major repairs, technical testing, and comprehensive technical assessments, the Ministry of National Defense said in a statement on Monday.The helicopter has been repaired and restored by engineers and technicians working with the General Command of Air and Air Defense Forces, the statement said.The Ministry of Defense described the restoration as an important achievement and said it represents a significant step toward increasing the operational readiness of the country's Air and Air Defense Forces.The ministry also said the successful completion of the repair work would contribute to strengthening the technical and operational capabilities of the country's air forces.

The Kabul Times

UNOPS to Implement 15 Water Management Projects in Kabul This Year

KABUL: The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) plans to implement around 15 new projects in several districts of Kabul aimed at replenishing groundwater resources, improving water resource management and reducing the impacts of climate change, the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock said in a statement on Monday.

A delegation from UNOPS shared the plan during a meeting with Mawlawi Baz Mohammad Faizan, Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Natural Resources at the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, the statement said.

According to the statement, the planned projects will focus on addressing challenges related to groundwater resources and improving water management in parts of Kabul, where increasing population and climate-related pressures have placed growing demands on water resources.Meanwhile, Faizan welcomed the UNOPS initiative and stressed the need to expand water resource management projects in Kabul in light of the city's growing population.He also emphasized the importance of joint cooperation to ensure the projects are implemented as quickly as possible, according to the ministry.

The initiative is expected to contribute to improved management of water resources, support groundwater recharge and help reduce the potential effects of climate change in the targeted areas.

The Kabul Times

More Than 22,000 Intoxicating Tablets Seized in Kabul, Ministry

KABUL: The country's Ministry of Interior Affairs said in a statement on Monday that 22,143 intoxicating tablets have been seized during a series operations conducted in different parts of Kabul city.

The operations have been carried out in several areas of the capital as part of efforts to combat the trafficking and distribution of narcotics and intoxicating substances, the statement said.According to the statement, three individuals have been arrested in connection with the case and will be handed over to the relevant judicial and legal authorities after the completion of preliminary investigations.

The seizure comes as anti-narcotics police personnel continue their efforts to crack down on narcotics and intoxicating substances across the country.

The Kabul Times

Energy, Water Minister Kicks Off Bridge Project in Kandahar

KABUL: Mullah Mohammad Younus Akhundzada, the country's Minister of Energy and Water, in an official ceremony, kicked off the construction work worth 110 million Afghanis in Kandahar province, the ministry said in a statement on Monday.

Connecting Panjwai and Zhari districts of southern Kandahar province, the 203-meter-long bridge is expected to significantly improve transportation and connectivity between the two districts, the statement said.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, Akhundzada said the construction of the bridge was of particular importance for facilitating transportation between Panjwai and Zhari districts and addressing longstanding transportation challenges faced by residents of the two areas.

The project is being implemented under a special decree issued by the Prime Minister's Office, the statement said.**The Kabul Times**

Kabul, Dushanbe Hold Talks on Border Issues, Bilateral Cooperation

KABUL: Mawlavi Noor Rahman Nosrat, Chief of Military Operations of the Ministry of National Defense, in a meeting with Tajikistan's Ambassador to Afghanistan, Saadi Sharifi, discussed border issues and strengthening bilateral relations.The Afghan and Tajik officials also emphasized the importance of expanding bilateral cooperation, strengthening friendly relations and maintaining goodwill between the two neighboring countries, the Ministry of National Defense said in a statement on Monday.

According to the statement, the Islamic Emirate has been working within its available resources to create employment opportunities for specialists.

Mawlavi Irshad made the remarks during a ceremony held at Takhar University, where 804 students graduated from 26 departments across eight faculties, the Ministry of Higher Education said in a statement the other day.

He also called on the newly graduated students to support the Islamic system and use their knowledge and professional expertise in the service of the country.The graduation ceremony was attended by a number of officials from the Takhar provincial administration, religious scholars, influential local figures, members of Takhar University's leadership, lecturers, students and family members of the graduates, the statement said.

Meanwhile, Takhar University Rector Mawlawi Abdul Jamil Saees described the graduation of the students as the result of four years of academic efforts and hard work.He urged the graduates to put their knowledge and professional skills into practice and serve their communities and the people of Afghanistan.The 804 graduates include students from the faculties of Engineering, Agriculture, Law and Political Science, Computer Science, Sharia, Education, Economics and Literature, the statement said.Officials at the ceremony expressed hope that the graduates would contribute to the development of their communities and the country by applying the knowledge and expertise they gained during their university studies.

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Islamic Emirate Working to Create Jobs for Specialists Within Available Resources, Official

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scientific, jihadi, and military personality, Zakir Jalali, an official at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Emirae, has described Khalis as a "principled politician," arguing that he remained committed to his religious and political views despite changing political circumstances.

Jalali said Khalis's religious outlook was not significantly affected by the support and assistance provided by Arab countries during the jihad or by his years of residence in Pakistan. He also argued that Khalis maintained his national outlook throughout his political activities.

At the same time, Dr. Farooq Azam, speaking about Khalis Baba's personality, highlighted the combination of qualities he said distinguished him from others.

"Khalis Baba was a man of extraordinary qualities. He was a scholar, a leader and a political thinker. He was also both moderate and hardline, and bringing all these qualities together in one person was a rare distinction," Azam said.

Similarly, researcher and writer Professor Mohammad Asif Samim emphasized Khalis Baba's contribution to literature, particularly his distinctive writing style and use of accessible language.

"Khalis Baba's writing language was popular and accessible, and his style is worth emulating. If young people want to develop a strong writing style, they should adopt Khalis Baba's approach to writing," Samim said.

The 20th anniversary of Khalis's death has prompted calls among his supporters and associates for greater research into his life, writings and political positions.

They argue that documenting his biography and intellectual work could help future generations better understand the role of religious scholars and jihadi figures in Afghanistan's contemporary history.

At the same time, the anniversary provides an opportunity to examine the experiences of figures such as Khalis within the broader context of Afghanistan's turbulent political history. His life was shaped by several major periods, including the Soviet invasion, the anti-Soviet resistance, the civil wars of the 1990s and the post-2001 conflict.

Twenty years after his death, discussions about Mawlawi Mohammad Younus Khalis continue among his family, associates and supporters, particularly regarding his religious views, political positions and role in the Afghan jihad.

Further historical and academic research, including examination of his writings and political activities, could provide a more balanced understanding of his place in Afghanistan's recent history.